

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF EDGAR BENJAMIN RICHARDS

Edgar Benjamin Richards was the youngest child in a family of twelve (12) children and the youngest son among a family of eight boys. He was born to Emanuel Holman and Mary Catherine Pope Richards the 10th of March, 1896, in West Jordan, Salt Lake, Utah.

He attended the local school in West Jordan and later became a student of Jordan High at Sandy, Utah.

He was a lover of music. He found great pleasure in sitting on the front step of his parents' home blowing his trumpet and the clear ringing notes could be heard for miles around.

When World War I was calling for strong, vigorous young men, Edgar enlisted in the United States Army. He was sent to France, England, and other parts of conflict and became their bugler. In those days the bugler led the army into the most dangerous of battle fronts. He participated in two of the worst and heaviest battles, the Chateau Thierry and the Argonne Forest. Despite the heavy danger he was constantly in he came through unscathed. After one severe battle the enemy came through with a heavily loaded tank which passed within inches of him. Edgar was lying flat on the ground pretending to be just another dead soldier. As the tank approached he drew his knees up to his chest, otherwise it would have passed over his legs and cut them both off. When all was safe he arose and went on.

At one time he went to England where he met two of his cousins, on his Mother's line, whom he had never met before. They became close friends and corresponded for a long time.

After peace was signed Edgar returned home to his family who lived on a farm in West Jordan, Utah.

On August 1, 1921, Edgar took the usual buckets and milk can and started for the barn to do the evening milking. Out of the blue sky, with only one cloud, came a bolt of lightning that struck and killed him instantly. There was a hole in his hat and his shoes were in shreds from the bolt that struck him. His military funeral was held a few days later with a flag draped casket. He was buried in the West Jordan Cemetery in the Richards' burial plot.

(The flag that covered Edgar's casket is in the possession of J. C. Richards of Sandy.)